

cooing gently, and the great Fruit Pigeon (*Carpophaga pacifica*), the note of which is harsh and drawling, but still derivable from a coo, is to be shot with ease by creeping up to the trees on the berries of which it is feeding at this season.

There are two Parrots known from Tonga, but they are very scarce. One of them, *Platycercus tabuensis*, is found only in Tonga and in the neighbouring island of Eua. It is called the Pompadour Parrot, from the peculiar purple red of its head and neck. The natives procure it alive from Eua, where it is abundant. One was bought for a shilling in the port during our stay. The other is a paroquet (*Coriphilus fringillaceus*), but is also scarce in Tonga. I saw neither of the parrots in the wild condition.

Lizards are abundant in Tonga, but of only two or three species. *Otosaurus microlepis*, one of the Scincidæ, is peculiar to the group. On the reefs an Eel (*Muraena*), whitish yellow-coloured spotted with brown, occurs. It is very snake-like in its movements, and I took it, on encountering it in the water, for the true Sea Snake (*Pelamys bicolor*), which also occurs here.

A large Foraminifer (*Orbitolites*) is very common on the reefs. The shells, as large as threepenny-pieces and like them in form, but of a chalky white colour, were to be seen in hundreds in the shallow pools. I preserved some of these in absolute alcohol, and observed that a green colouring matter was dissolved out in the spirit. On examining the soft structure of the animals, I found that they were full of minute cells with very distinct transparent walls, which had all the appearance of unicellular algæ. It is possible that the green colouring of the spirit was due to the solution of chlorophyll contained in the cells. The cells are evidently identical with those described by Dr. Carpenter, as existing in *Orbitolites*, and which he regarded as animal in origin, and describes as having a crimson hue in spirit specimens.\* It seems just possible that they may be algæ, existing as parasites within the *Foraminifera*. If so, their presence would, as my friend Prof. Ray Lankester has pointed out to me, give further support to the hypothesis that the well-known yellow starch-containing cells of *Radiolarians*, are likewise parasitic vegetable organisms, and not essential components of the *Radiolarians*, in the bodies of which they occur.

**Matuku Island, Fiji, July 24th, 1874.**—We hastened along with the trade wind, and on July 24th were off the island of Matuku, one of the Fiji group, lying about 70 miles east of Kandavu. The island is volcanic, and surrounded by a barrier

\* W. B. Carpenter, F.R.S., etc., "Introduction to the Study of the Foraminifera," Ray Society, 1862, p. 35, Pl. IV., fig. 1.